Reviewer's report

Title: Comparative analysis of inflamed and non-inflamed colon biopsies reveals strong proteomic inflammation profile in patients with ulcerative colitis

Version: 3 Date: 4 June 2012

Reviewer: Ryan Stidham

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Prior Major Revision Suggestions:

1. Clearly state in the abstract and background that the purpose of this work is to describe the proteomic profile in ulcerative colitis, not the express discovery of new biomarkers: The authors have altered the text to better characterize their conclusions.

2. Narrow the UC cohort to identical medical therapy (all 5-ASA, all treatment naïve, etc) including non-IBD medications and reanalyze the data. This should be possible given the small number of patients necessary to enroll: Appreciate author's thoughtful response, and agree that they present reasonable justification to conclude that variation in 5-ASA use did not impact results.

3. Add a non-IBD inflammation control group (i.e. C diff colitis distal colon biopsies) for comparison and clarification of proteins unique to IBD related inflammation: I still suggest a Non-IBD colitis positive control. However, this will not be practical for the authors and their results and conclusion are a valuable addition to IBD-related proteomic research.

4. Please provide histology inflammation grading for UC cohort: Sufficient clarification.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.